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Subject: Fw: LANL: First High-Volume Air Samples Come in 'Clean' – Los Alamos Monitor – June 29, 2011

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Subject: LANL: First High-Volume Air Samples Come in 'Clean' - Los Alamos Monitor - June 29, 2011

Despite no wildfire currently on Los Alamos Laboratory property, the Laboratory has established a network of seven high-volume air samplers along the southern, northern and eastern boundaries of Laboratory property to verify that hazardous materials are not leaving the Laboratory in smoke from the fire. Preliminary results of air samples taken at Los Alamos National Laboratory boundaries show no radioactive materials from Laboratory operations or legacy waste in smoke from the Las Conchas fire.

"There are no wildfires burning on Lab property and our nuclear and hazardous materials are accounted for and protected," said Laboratory Director Charles McMillan. "As scientists we need data to ensure that our employees and regional neighbors are not affected by our operations. Preliminary air sampling results confirm this."

The high-volume air sample filters are being split with one half of each filter being analyzed on site for a quick turnaround of results and the other half being sent to an offsite, independent laboratory for analysis and corroboration of the preliminary results.

In addition to the high-volume samplers, the Laboratory has sixty AIRNET sampling stations near Los Alamos, White Rock, on laboratory property, and in the region. \*\*A subset of these stations is in place to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's airborne dose limit for the public. The AIRNET samples will help verify the high-volume sampling

results. The preliminary data shows no levels of radioactive materials in concentrations higher than that seen in smoke elsewhere in the region.

Director McMillan on Tuesday pledged to make air-sampling data available to the public as soon as possible. Routine updates to the New Mexico Community Foundation's RACER environmental monitoring website will reflect these data and other information at <a href="http://racernm.com">http://racernm.com</a>.

"New Mexicans should know that there are no radioactive materials from the Laboratory in the smoke," McMillan said. "As with any smoke, however, we urge our employees and regional residents, particularly those with health conditions such as asthma, to minimize their exposure."

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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